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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council calls for renewed efforts to solve Cyprus problem; Council President, in tribute to outgoing Secretary-General, underscores his role in positive transformation of United Nations.

- Secretary-General says charges against his Deputy Personal Representative for Western Sahara are "totally unfounded".

- Organization of African Unity appeals to Security Council to ensure that integrity of Peace Plan for Western Sahara is "safeguarded and its terms unaltered".

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The Security Council last night called on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, and of Greece and Turkey to cooperate fully in United Nations efforts to formulate an overall framework agreement aimed at solving the Cyprus problem.

In a statement read out by Council President Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union), the Council members restated their position that the convening of a high-level international meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, in which the two communities of the island and Greece and Turkey would participate, represented an effective mechanism for concluding such an agreement.

The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General "for his long and tireless efforts in seeking a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus question" and unanimously endorsed his recent report and observations on the matter.

In his report, the Secretary-General had expressed his disappointment that the Cyprus question, "with which I have been personally involved since 1975", had not yet been resolved. At the same time, he reiterated the conviction that the two communities "will inevitably recognize that a mutually acceptable solution is in their respective self-interest".

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After reading the agreed statement, the Council President paid tribute to outgoing Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. He said that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, who served during a 10-year period of dramatic change in the international order, had done a great deal to help transform the United Nations from an organ of confrontation to one of cooperation.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuéllar said today through his Spokesman that he considered it "deeply offensive" that, before the Security Council's informal consultations yesterday on the question of Western Sahara, the representative of Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) had given wide distribution to a document containing unfounded and malicious allegations against his Deputy Special Representative for Western Sahara, Mr. Zia Rizvi.

The Secretary-General said it was not acceptable that such attempts should be made to discredit a trusted and long-serving member of the Secretariat who had been assisting him in carrying out the difficult mandate entrusted to him by the Security Council.

As regarded the allegations that Mr. Rizvi surreptitiously transmitted information provided by POLISARIO to the Government of Morocco, a recently concluded internal inquiry had established that no such information was transmitted, and that the allegations against Mr. Rizvi were totally unfounded.

In a separate development, it was announced that negotiations on El Salvador were being held at the Secretary-General's residence throughout the day.

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The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has said that "any change or modification to the elements" of the Peace Plan for Western Sahara, already accepted by the parties, would be "prejudicial to the process as well as to the organization of a free and fair referendum for self-determination" by the people of the Territory.

The statement was contained in a letter yesterday to the Security Council President, in the wake of a report by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on the situation in Western Sahara in which he proposed that the parties discuss new elements with respect to the identification of those eligible to vote in the future referendum. The Secretary-General had said that there existed some differences of interpretation of the settlement plan with respect to the confinements of troops and the return of refugees and other Saharans living outside the Territory. As was well known, he said, a number of people who claimed to belong to Western Sahara had been moved into the Territory.

In its letter to the Council, the OAU General Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment to observe the Western Sahara Peace Plan as accepted by the

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Government of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO). But, at the same time, it appealed to Council members to ensure that the integrity of the Plan as accepted by the parties and endorsed by the international community was "safeguarded and its terms unaltered".

The letter was transmitted to the Council President by the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Ghana, Chairman of the African Group, Kofi Nyidevu Awoonor.

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